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COUNTRY Italy, Rumania

REPORT NO. (MCI-9103)

TOPIC Rumanian Ambassador to Rome Believed

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EVALUATION X1A PLACE OBTAINED Germany/Munich

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 18 September 1950

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REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. Mihai Dragomirescu, then Rumanian Ambassador to Rome, and his wife appeared at the Italian Foreign Ministry on 19 June 1950 at 1030 a.m. (1) Dragomirescu stated that he did not want to return to his home in Rumania under the present Communist regime and therefore was desirous of severing connections with the Rumanian Government and seeking asylum in Italy. He believed that not only his life but also that of his wife would be endangered if they were to remain in the building of the Rumanian Embassy in Rome. Dragomirescu requested the Italian Government to permit him to remain in Italy and grant him protection, adding that he had left the embassy building two days previously, on 17 June 1950, under the pretext that he would spend the weekend in Albano, northwest of Rome.
2. Upon the request of the official in the Foreign Ministry, Dragomirescu made a written statement concerning his intention to resign his post and his desire to remain in Italy. He obtained accommodations in the Quirinale Hotel in Rome and a police agent with a motorcar was detailed for his protection.
3. On the same day, 19 June 1950, the Italian Foreign Ministry received a verbal note signed by Dinulescu, (Inu), stating that Dragomirescu had been relieved from his post as ambassador to Rome by the Rumanian Government. (2) Until the appointment of a new ambassador Dinulescu would function as envoy ad interim and chief of the Rumanian Embassy in Rome.
4. Dragomirescu's defection caused great anxiety in the Rumanian Embassy in Rome as well as with business firms dealing with Rumania and other satellite countries. Inasmuch Dragomirescu was familiar with all illegal activities of diplomatic representatives of the satellite countries he would have been in a position to make sensational disclosures which would have endangered the economic planning of Rumania and the satellites as well as the political designs of the Communists for western Europe. Dragomirescu's defection was far more dangerous than that of former envoy Mischa Lewin. (3) Persons close to satellite

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representatives confidently asserted that this situation was of such that something definitely would be done to relieve it.

5. Prior to his appearance at the Italian Foreign Ministry Dragomirescu had contacted Saragat, (fnu), and Ignazio Silone, leaders of the Italian Socialist Unity Party, who influenced Prime Minister De Gasperi and Minister of the Interior, Scelba, to grant him protection and sanctuary. (u)
6. On 24 June 1950 the police agent shadowing Dragomirescu observed that the latter together with his wife left the hotel escorted by two men. Noticing a disconcerted expression on Dragomirescu's face the police agent followed them after seeing them enter a parked motorcar. The car finally stopped at the Rumanian Embassy where, when confronted by the police agent Dragomirescu stated that he no longer needed his protection. He thanked the agent and said good-bye. Thereupon Dragomirescu, his wife and the two unknown men entered the embassy building. When the police agent returned to the hotel he learned that they had left all of their baggage behind and not payed the bill.
7. On the morning of 26 June 1950 Dragomirescu again appeared at the Foreign Ministry and with a bewildered look stated that he had been tricked into returning to the embassy where he had been beaten and maltreated before making good his escape. On the other hand his wife, a Jewess who is a confirmed Communist, had resolved to return to Rumania. After requesting protection and sanctuary he returned to his apartment in the Quirinale Hotel.
8. When on the afternoon of 26 June 1950 the same two men who had visited Dragomirescu on 24 June 1950 reappeared in the hotel the latter again accompanied them to the embassy. Again the baggage remained behind and the bill unpaid.
9. On 27 June 1950 Dragomirescu contacted the Foreign Ministry by telephone from the Rumanian Embassy, stating that he had now decided to return to Rumania and requested his passport and an exit permit. A high-ranking official of the Foreign Ministry who received the call replied that in view of his previous statements the passport and exit permit would be made available only if Dragomirescu would appear personally and alone at the Foreign Ministry and in the presence of a high-ranking official of the Italian Foreign Ministry sign a written statement that he now desired to return to Rumania. Dragomirescu replied that lack of time would preclude such an arrangement and after lengthy negotiations by telephone it was agreed that an official of the Foreign Ministry would bring Dragomirescu's document to the airport. In return Dragomirescu promised to make an oral statement in the presence of this official.
10. In the morning of 29 June 1950 an Italian official met Dragomirescu at the airport. The latter was accompanied by his wife and Matei Bogdan, chief of the Eastern Europe Section of the Rumanian Foreign Ministry (Direktiuna Generala pentru Afaceri Occidentale), who had arrived from Bucharest sometime after 19 June 1950. Also accompanying Dragomirescu were four husky individuals, who ostensibly were diplomatic couriers, and the envoy Dinulescu. The couriers had likewise arrived in Rome after 19 June 1950. In the presence of these persons Dragomirescu stated that he was firmly resolved to return to Rumania. Thereupon he received the passports for himself and his wife. Shortly thereafter Dragomirescu,

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his wife, Bogdan and the four couriers boarded the regular plane of the Czech Airlines, Ceskoslovensky Statni Aerolinie, en route to Prague.

11. It is the consensus among Italian anti-Communists that Dragomirescu was either hypnotized or drugged while conducting the above telephone conversation. Eye witnesses stated that at the airfield Dragomirescu gave the impression of being a half-dead or hypnotized man. (5)

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Comment.

- (1) Mihai Dragomirescu, former professor for Rumanian literature at Bucharest University, is an idealistic Communist, who in 1945 joined the newly founded National People's Party which was an instrument of the Communists used to attract lower middle class people. Dragomirescu was first a member of the board of this party and later became its president. The party was a part of People's Democratic Front coalition which supported the Communist regime from the beginning. The National People's Party was dissolved by the Communists in 1948 and some of the members including Dragomirescu who were in the good graces of the Communists were transferred into the Communist Rumanian Labor Party. Dragomirescu became a diplomat and was sent to Paris in early 1949. However, because of his sharp attacks against members of the French Government the Rumanian Government was obliged to recall him. He was then appointed ambassador to Rome arriving there on 13 July 1949.

- 25X1X (2) Comment. Dinulescu has been serving as the press attaché of the Rumanian Embassy in Rome. In this capacity he edited the news bulletin of the embassy Notiziario Romano which was published every two months. Prior to this appointment Dinulescu was a consulate official. He is about 35 years old and a veteran Communist Party member. He maintains close connections with members of the Communist Party of Italy.

- 25X1X (3) Comment. Mischa or Misa Lewin was a councillor at the Rumanian Embassy in Rome. In February 1949 he left Rome allegedly to spend his vacation in Rumania but did not return.

- 25X1X (4) Comment. Ignazio Gilone alias Pasquini alias Tranquilli joined the Communist Party of Italy after World War I. He was chief editor of the socialist newspaper Avanti after World War II. In 1947 he delivered a speech to members of the PEN Club in Basel. In 1949 he broke with the party and is now considered a renegade. Recently he was severely criticized by Togliatti.

- 25X1X (5) Comment. This report is submitted in unabbreviated form as it presents an interesting case on Communist methods applied to unreliable partisans.

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